Press Releases

The Meteorological Office

PRESS OFFICE

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Met. Office marine weather information direct to mobile phones

The Met. Office today launched its new Short Message Service (SMS), which provides the latest marine weather information in text format to anyone using a GSM mobile phone on the Vodafone network.

For all those into water sports SMS is a fast and cost-effective way of getting the latest weather information. As a subscriber you dial **0374 555 838**, select the area code and type of forecast required, and within seconds a text forecast will be transmitted to your mobile phone. The new service costs as little as 30p. Customers can chose to receive regular updates from SMS as the latest information becomes available.

The range of marine weather information available from The Met. Office SMS service includes:

- **New SMS Forecast Areas -** seven new inshore forecasts for the south coast, from North Foreland, to Hartland Point, North Devon, 3 times daily.
- **Coastal Reports -** hourly reports from Coastal Stations including wind speed and direction, visibility, and barometric pressure.
- **Shipping Area Forecasts -** 6 hour or 24 hour forecasts, updated every 6 hours.

Peter Hollingsworth, Leisure Marine Account Manager, The Met. Office said, "SMS is a fast, easy-to-use, and cost effective way of getting the latest marine weather information. With the RNLI reporting that as many as 1 in 5 people not checking weather or tide information before going to sea, and the large number of people carrying mobile phones, we hope that SMS from The Met. Office will make marine weather information more accessible."

MetFAX NEWS:

South-Coast MetFAX products (for Dover, Southampton and Plymouth) now include the latest high tide information.

Notes:

- The cost of obtaining information from The Met. Office's SMS number costs between 30p and 50p:
  - Coastal Reports are charged at 30p per message (two stations)
  - Shipping Area forecasts are charged at 30p per message
  - New SMS inshore forecasts are charged at 50p per message

For more information call:

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